knows, that many State Governments have not spent the funds. Therefore, in the interests of the welfare of the tribals, the Government should lay the figures before the House so that we are aware as to who had failed. It may be any party's Government, so it is in the interests of the tribals that they must come out with the figures so that the nation knows and this House also knows. They must come out with the figures..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have agreed for an half-an-hour discussion. An half-an-hour discussion will be held on this

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you can ask him to lay it on the Table of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There will be an half-an-hour discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Yes, Sir..*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Indo-Nepal Border

*164. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has forwarded a scheme of Rupees Nine Crores to the Union Government to check crime and smuggling on the Indo-Nepal border;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). No proposal has been received from the State Government of Bihar specifically to check crime & smuggling on the Indo-Nepal Border. However, under the Central Schemes of Modernisation of State Police Forces, the following assistance has been released to the State Government during the last three years:-

(Rs. in Lakh)

Year	Amount
1994-95	116.560
1995-96	308.120
1996-97	233.120

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs in the reply said that his Ministry has not received any scheme to check smuggling etc. at the Indo-Nepal border. I have nothing to dispute in this regard. But the 6 September 1996 issue of Daily Jagaran has a specific mention in this regard. The hon. Minister should go through the report. The report states that a scheme involving an expenditure of Rs.9.5 crore has been received by his Ministry to check smuggling, crime and entry of terrorists at the Indo-Nepal border. I am not going into this controversy but there can be no denying the fact that the Central Government under its schemes provided funds to modernise the police force during the last three years. Of course, we have a very long border.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask question.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, I shall confine my question to the time limit you have given.

MR. SPEAKER : Only 3 seconds are left for you.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : My question is very simple. I want to know the way the Central funds allocated to Bihar have been spent and the extent to which modernisation of their police has been done. There are 15 police posts along the border which need to be supplied arms, wireless sets gipsies. Guest houses should also be constructed near these police posts where officers can stay. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the extent to which there has been increase in the above items and fall in the criminal, smuggling and terrorist activities in Bihar with the use of Central funds.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I already stated that what was asked for in the original question was whether we had received any schemes from the Government of Bihar for Rs.9 crore to check crime and smuggling on the Indo-Nepal Border. No such scheme has been received by us so far despite what appeared in the newspapers which the hon. Member has read out. But it is a fact that the Government of Bihar has been asking for Central assistance in order to modernise their Police force and during December, 1994, the Government of Bihar forwarded a proposal seeking an assistance of Rs.16.86 crore. They also desired to have assistance for modernising the State Police Force to check terrorism and extremism in various districts of the State. This assistance was sought for the procurement of vehicles, arms and ammunitions, communication equipment and riot control equipment. On the advice of the Ministry of Finance, the State Government was asked in February, 1995 to provide a break up of their requirements over the next three years. Their reply is still awaited. However, from 1993-94 up to the current financial year, the following assistance has been given to the State Government under the schemes for modernisation of

State police forces. in 1993-94, a sum of Rs.233.120 lakh was allocated and the funds actually released were in excess of the allocation - Rs.284 lakh. In 1994-95, the same amount, that is, Rs.233.120 lakh was allocated and the funds released were Rs.116.560 lakh. This is less than the amount allocated. The reason for this is that according to the system which prevails the State Government is expected to give a utilisation certificate for the amount which has been released in the previous year before the next year's amount is released. That utilisation certificate was not received at that time so, the following year's allocation was cut down.

In 1995-96 and 1996-97 the amounts allocated were exceeded by the actual funds released. If we take these four years together, then out of the total allocation of Rs.932.400 lakhs the total funds released were Rs.941.800 lakh. We have still got some balance out of this money and if utilisation certificates are received for the previous years, they can be released. This upgradation of police forces also includes the building of police stations and outposts housing for the Police, training of the Police and Police telecommunications. This is all part of the schemes for upgradation and modernisation. The Tenth Finance commission had recommended that for a period of four years, that is, up to 31st March, 2000, the State Government of Bihar may be given a total amount of Rs.7215.46 lakh for these purposes which I have just mentioned. The hon. member wanted to know actually how much had been spent by the State Government. We are awaiting that information. We have not get the detailed report yet.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, my second supplementary...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there anything left to be asked?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, my main question was that since the money is sent by the Central Government to the State Government how many Police Stations have been constructed and how many items of communication equipment have been bought with that money. But that information is not available with the hon. Minister. I shall be happy if he gets it from the Government of Bihar, in case they send it.

[Translation]

My second supplementary is very simple. Since pressure is mounted on terrorists in Kashmir and Punjab they are entering through other routes. Since we have friendly relations with Nepal, strict checking and scrutiny is not done. Four terrorists who were nabbed in Delhi came via Nepal. During his recent visit to India, the Prime Minister of Nepal shared the sentiment's of the President of India on intrusion of terrorists into India and their activities in its territory.

The other problem is about the terrorists at the border. Encroachment is being made on a large scale. Through army threatens the villagers and chase them. The Central Government had therefore decided to survey the area sometime back, but so far no officer has gone there to conduct a survey of the area. The jungle party workers are for kidnapping and creating terror in West Champaran.

The situation needs to be surveyed in which AK-47 and AK-56 rifles are being acquired through Nepal. Our countrymen want to know the point upto which our border extends. Will the hon. Minister of Home Affairs take steps to conduct a survey so that the Indo-Nepal border could be distinguished because dispute has depend at mile stone Nos.27, 28, 29 and 31. Is there any schemes with the Government to depute officials to the border for a strict survey of the area?

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, the entire border between Nepal and India is, I regret to say, a fairly porous border. There are 23 formal routes having checkposts for immigration and customs purposes. But, apart from these 23 formal routes, there are a large number of informal routes, you can call them, operating all along the border with access to the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. In recent years, there has been some increased activity within Nepal and along the border of what we suspect to be the I.S.I. of Pakistan.

The reference that was made by the hon. Member to some people being arrested and their antecedents being traced back to Nepal is about all that. There was a bomb explosion here in Lajpat Nagar. You may remember it. We had suspected the hand of I.S.I. behind this. These people are exploiting the rather lax security situation, the liberal regime in Nepal and indulging in various types of these criminal activities.

Now, what we have been doing is that the immigration checkposts have been strengthened. It has been laid down that the staff of these immigration checkposts should be entirely personnel of the Special Branch and nobody else. Coordination and cooperation between the staff of different Government agencies is being also strengthened. The training of police officers in matters of the control of narcotics is going on. Narcotics trade is very much prevalent there.

As far as the Government of India is concerned, our Home Secretary led a delegation of officials of the Home Ministry, the Ministry of External Affairs and the I.B. to Nepal and held discussions there with their counterparts. They also called on the Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Minister of Nepal to discuss these border problems. On their part, all the Minister's and senior officials of the Nepal Government assured the Indian delegation that they would not permit the use of the Nepalese territory for hostile activities against India and they emphased the significance of our traditional ties and so on.

So, the agencies of the two countries are working in much better cooperation then before. But this does

not mean to say that we are able to protect the entire border satisfactorily.

The hon. Member has referred to certain areas which require to be surveyed afresh. I take note of this. He has mentioned certain particular milestones and signposts which require to be surveyed.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : I mentioned about pillars numbers 27, 28, 29 and 31.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I take this information from the hon. Member and I will immediately see that the survey for these particular areas is done as soon as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that terrorist activities are as the rise at Indo-Nepal borders. In this connection I would like to state that the borders of UP and Bihar which are very long touch Nepal.

Do the government propose to deploy CRP Personnel along this long border. if the terrorist activities at this border are not checked the situation in Bihar and UP may also turn for the worse like Jammu and Kashmir. Reports are daily pouring in that the above route is being used for bringing arms and ammunitions to Delhi and other parts of the North. Under the Cricumstances. is the hon. Minister considering deployment of CRP Personnel along the entire border.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The next question is important. I want to take it up.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I do not agree

[Translation]

that no watch is being kept at the developments. Watch is being kept and it will be accelerated further.

It is because it is a long border and a very porous border. I may also say that smuggled arms from Nepal have also reportedly been reaching East Champaran, West Champaran and Sitamari districts in Bihar. We have got these reports. We are investigating into them. On the misuse of the Nepali soil for smuggling purposes, a protest, ote about it has been sent to His Majesty's Govern nt in Nepal through the Ministry of External Affairs

As to the proposal of deployment of the Central paramilitary forces along this border, the trouble is that unfortunately we have not got enough Central paramilitary forces at the moment to meet all the requirements of our country. Many States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Manipur which are, at the moment confronted by various kinds of terrorist or insurgent activities, are everyday clamouring for additional Central forces to be sent there. I regret to say that we are not in a position always to satisfy them. In fact, having withdrawn certain units of these forces from some States during the Elections in Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, we are now having to think of further reductions and withdrawals in order to meet these other requirements. If the Indo-Nepal border is to be manned by the C.R.P.F. or the B.S.F., they require many more units.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will you make a beginning of that?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It is not a question of a beginning. After all, Central paramiltary forces and the Army are very much deployed on the Jammu-Kashmir border. But that was not a hundred per cent guarnantee that we would be able to prevent infiltration. Infiltration is still going on. In Kashmir, even after the elections, infiltration is going on, may be on a reduced scale. But the paramilitary forces are there, the Army is there. The point is that the nature of the border is such that it is very difficult to guard every single inch or foot of that border. But if we are able to reinforce our paramilitary foces adequately, it will have some relief. One way of doing it is that the States which are asking for additional help should be able to raise their own reserved battalions which we are trying to encourage them to do. In this case the Central forces would have some relief.

Regarding the armed reserved battalions which each State can raise, fifty per cent of the expenditure is met by the Centre. It will also give some employment to a lot of unemployed youth.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will you give a categorical answer?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : That should be done so that the pressure on the Central forces can be reduced for them to take other tasks.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want a categorical answer about Indo-Nepal Border ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, what a routine reply from the hon. Minister!

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pilot, put a pointed question.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, we had been hearing it from various Governments sitting in that side ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It was so from you also ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You used to say it when I used to reply like that.

I want to point out that the hon. Minister, as an hon. Member, used to say from here when I used to reply from there...*(Interruptions)* Sir, my pointed question is that I totally agree with the hon. Minister that it is a porous proder which he also has agreed. But there are some steps which are initiated on coordination between the States on the paramilitary forces because the forces

are not sufficient enough. Sir, at that time two decisions were taken - the communications to be supplied or to be held by the Central Government and the manpower of forces be given by the State Government. This decision was taken in consultation with the U.P. Government especially so that this border could be further checked up and the modernisation of arms specially for that particular group of the people who would be helping in manning the border was also agreed by Central Government that they would help them out. With this, there was a lot of improvement initially. I had personally gone to the borders. This war being implemented during that time. Your special Secretary, Shri Mathur was the D.G. in these days. Now he is a Special Secretary here.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the coordination, which was earlier functioning, is being followed? If it is followed, is it fruitful or is it producing any results? Secondly, as it has been noticed by the hon. Minister himself that the ISI activities on the Nepalside were increasing, we had taken it up with the Nepal government at that time. What is the progress from that side now because this matter was taken up nearly a year back. It is not that the note has gone to the Government of Nepal from the Ministry of External Affairs now. What is the real answer from the Nepal Government? I would like to know whether they put up any cheakpost on that side because it is known all over the border States that the Nepal border is the easiest accessible border for narcotics and other things.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pilot, your two minutes are over.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, the former Minister for Internal Security is quite right when he say that the Nepal-U.P. border is extremely porous and because of the danger that is realised from that quarter, certain decisions have been taken which mainly were of coordination between the Centre and the Nepal Government. I have already mentioned that including the visit of a high level delegation from here, for this purpose, some other regular contacts and intelligence agencies of the two Government are also going on. It is a regular process and it is going on. If you asked me to quantify in some way to what extent the Nepal Government has been able to check ISI activities, I think it is a very difficult question to answer.

I personally do not think that there has been any very marked improvement. You can see that the activities of these terrorists are still going on quite reportedly, markedly. You see, what happened yesterday in Ambala. Nobody was expecting this. We should have expected it, I suppose. Things like this create a great deal of panic among the people and if the intelligence agencies have been at fault, the matter will have to be investigated and they will have to be pulled up. The cause of the explosion is also to be pulled up. Nowadays, they are using all kinds of material and methods, including RDX and so on. This is also being smuggled into India through Nepal. There is no doubt about it. The situation is quite serious, I should say. If it is the seriousness of the situation which the hon. Member, Shri Pilot wanted to emphasise, well, I agree hundred per cent with him. I shall be happy if he from his past experience can give us some specific suggestions as to how to improve this coordination with our neighbouring countries.

We are doing it with Bangladesh. There is a lot of smuggling off Bangladesh border also. The new Government which has come in Bangladesh now has assured us that they would do everything possible to see that the soil of Bangladesh is not used for these anti-Indian activities and they will not be provided any kind of sanctuary or camp or anything there.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is enough. Shri Pilot is fully satisfied. I can see his face.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This the last question and only one minute is left.

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 25 police stations along the Bihar-Nepal border. Central Funds are being provided for the modernisation of these police stations, but only 5 Police station have vehicles and communication facilities. Is the Government considering for providing fast running vehicles and telecommunication facilities to the remaining police stations. The Government of Bihar has neither sent nor is likely to send any scheme for checking terrorist activities at the border. Under the circumstances, I would like know the action being taken by the Central Government in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Only half a minute is left. If you want a reply, please resume your seat forthwith.

[English]

Mr. Minister, you have only half a minute to reply.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Yes Sir. We are dealing with this question and are considering how best we can improve this communication system which is very vital.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ganga Action Plan

*165. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the allocation made under the National River Conservation Plan for the Ganga Action Plan is not being fully utilized and the money is being surrendered;